

Post graduate studies in Australia



- There are 2 kinds of post graduate studies you could do :
 - Coursework
 - Masters by coursework (Msc) etc
 - Research
 - Masters by Research (MPhil) - takes between 1 and 2 years
 - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - takes between 3 and 4 years

What do you need to have to be eligible...

Generally speaking -

- Most Australian unis ask for a 4 year bachelors degree with at least a 2nd upper.
- The bachelors need to have a research component if you're looking for research degrees.
- You need an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0.
- These could differ slightly for each uni, so you'd need to visit their websites for exact requirements.
- Publications help, if you have any. Try to write a paper based on your 4th year thesis as soon as you finish it.

Where do you start looking?

- Internet! –
 - Google for PhD scholarships
 - Visit uni websites and look at their international scholarships
 - Keep an eye out for any emails that might come along with scholarship details

How do you select a uni?

- Do you have a specific city that you want to study in? (Sydney/Melbourne/Perth etc)
- You could look at Australian university rankings, and then select a few from the top unis, a few more from the middle ranks, and yet some more from the bottom ranks.
- Some unis that you might want to check out :
La Trobe, RMIT, Swinburne, Monash, Macquarie, University of Sydney

What kind of scholarships?

- Scholarships are offered by the Australian Government, universities and a number of other organizations – sometimes even Industry.
- Government scholarships : **Endeavour Awards, Australian Leadership Awards (ALA), Australian Development Scholarships (ADS)**
- For university/faculty scholarships, you need to visit each university site and have a look.

- For example,
 - La Trobe university gives La Trobe University Fee Remission Research Scholarship (LTUFRRS) & La Trobe University Postgraduate Research Scholarships (LTUPRS)
 - RMIT university gives the RMIT University International Research Scholarship (RUIRS)
 - Faculties and Schools within a university might have separate scholarships as well.
- Some scholarships give you tuition fees (that's the course fee), some give you a living allowance.
 - Typically, you should apply for a **Full** scholarship which means you get the tuition fees and a living allowance. If you get a full scholarship, you won't be required to do TA work etc (but you could – if you need extra money).

Applying for Research

- You will need to write a **Research Proposal** which will explain what you hope to do in your MPhil or PhD.
- The Research proposal does not need to be very long or comprehensive – 2/3 pages with some related work cited is fine. But you need to have a novel idea.
- You will need someone to function as your **supervisor** so once you have a proposal, contact a faculty member at the Australian uni/s and send her your proposal.
- If she's interested by your idea, she would reply and probably ask for your transcripts etc.
- She might also ask you to change the direction of your proposal/make it more concrete/do more survey on related work etc.
- Some times they will send you some publications in that area so you could improve your proposal.
- You need to have this dialogue with your potential supervisor until they feel your proposal is fine for applying.

Research Proposal

- This could be in any area. You don't need to do your post grad research in the same area that you did for bachelors research project.
 - Eg : If you did your 4th year research in NLP, it's OK to do your post grad research in Quantum computing.
- This should be in an area that you're genuinely interested in. Otherwise you'd be stuck doing something you hate for 2-4 years.
- Writing a proposal takes time. Even months.
- A tip if you feel lost: If you're interested in, say Data mining, look for a faculty member at the Aussie uni who's conducting research in that area. Then contact him and say you're interested in his field and ask if he has any ongoing research that need PhD students.

Deadlines for applications

- Normally Australian research scholarships open around September and close by end of October.
- Some universities such as RMIT require that you have already received an offer letter to the course *before* you apply for scholarships.
 - For these type of unis, you need to apply for the course a few months before the scholarships open
- For other unis such as La Trobe, Monash etc, both applications to uni and scholarships are submitted together.

Remember...

- You need referee reports from your faculty. Give them the referee forms at least a month before the deadline and remind them (nicely!) to send the forms.
- If you send the applications by courier, you'd need to pay around Rs.3000 for each.
- Some unis charge you an application fee (about Rs.6000) but for Research degrees this is mostly free.
- You could apply through an Agent in SL, but be careful to select a genuine Agency.

Finally...

It's a long process so have patience..!

Do drop me a mail at niro_ucsc@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Good Luck!

(Prepared by Niroshinie Fernando)